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TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, KPAO, GM
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRAN CIA IRAQ SOMALIA PERU;BERLIN

A. Lead Stories Summary
B. (Iran) New Western Offer
C. (CIA) Renditions
D. (Iraq) U.S. Reputation
E. (Africa) Somalia
F. (Peru) Presidential Elections

A. Lead Stories Summary

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HEADLINES

Coalition To Discuss Anti-Discrimination Law (Frankfurter Allgemeine)

Iran Should Be Allowed To Enrich Uranium (Sueddeutsche Zeitung)

Beck: Health Reform Must Be Good For the Coming 15 Years (Die Welt)

Peace Signals From Tehran (Frankfurter Rundschau)

A Woman Heads Central Council Of Jews (Tagesspiegel)

Jews Call For Toughness Towards Iran (Berliner Zeitung)

Editorials focused on the election of a new chairwoman of the Central Council of Jews and the reaction of Iran to the Western countries' offer. ZDF-TV's early evening newscast heute and ARD-TV's early evening newscast Tagesschau opened with stories on the new chairwomen of the Central Council of Jews.

B. (Iran) New Western Offer

1. "Persian Temptation"

Rudolph Chimelli editorialized in center-left Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (6/8):

"The Iranian negotiators can be happy that Iran was offered more than candies. President Ahmadinejad's tenacity and provocation finally paid off. The Western offer is not just of a new material quality compared with the talks of the last two and half years, which the Iranian ridiculed as an exchange of gold for candies. Now, the Americans are on board. After an ice age that lasted for a quarter of a century, Washington is ready for talks with Iran even before the beginning of potential negotiations."

2. "Generous Offer"

Jacques Schuster commented in right-of-center Die Welt of Berlin (6/8):

"The P5 and Germany want to allow Iran to enrich uranium to prevent them from enriching uranium. That's how you can sum up the negotiation offer. The international

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community's offer could not have been broader. The hope is pinned on the mullahs' goodwill. There were immediate accusations of an appeasement policy - and they cannot be completely denied. However, the offer is a good one. The international community still has a few years until Iran could possess a nuclear bomb. Much would be achieved if the Iranian government were persuaded during that time by talks and concessions not to build a nuclear bomb. In addition, the offer highlights the consensus of the international community. Despite the concessions they offer, they make clear that they are not ready to accept that Iran becomes a nuclear power."

3. "The Evil And The Satan"

Olivia Schoeller opined in left-of-center Berliner Zeitung (6/8):

"George W. Bush has made history yesterday - at least rhetorically. He described the reaction of the Iranian government to the recent EU offer as 'positive.' Given the three decades of a cold war between Washington and Tehran and this President, this can be viewed as a breakthrough. The U.S. is apparently making efforts to act together with its allies. Let's hope the White House will not use words like good and evil in its foreign policy in the future."

4. Rolf Clement had this to say on national radio station Deutschlandfunk of Cologne (6/7):

"The recent months made clear how difficult it is to forge a common stance given the different interests of the P5. This is still the case, because the recent proposals offer miles of room for interpretation. While the U.S. and the Europeans expect that sanctions will be immediately imposed, Russia and China are against it. The chances of the offer are limited: The different interests and the unclear motives of the Iranian leadership make it unlikely that it will be successful. Iran might not be interested in reaching a compromise."

5. "Political First Round"

Stefan Kornelius noted in center-left Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich (6/8):

"That Mohammed Aliabadi will attend the Soccer World Cup and Mahmud Ahmadinejad will not come is a diplomatic solution for a problem that could have turned a sports event into a political crisis. That Iran's vice president visits

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the Iranian team is a manifold message: The Iranians do not want to provoke the West unnecessarily by sending President Ahmadinejad, who denies the Holocaust and polarizes people. But neither do they want others to tell them that they cannot come. It would also be strange if a tricky visit from Iran disrupts German politics while Germany as a part of a global alliance is trying to broker a deal with Iran. Dealing with Iran and its representatives is not easy, but it can be done."

6. "Bush Changes His Iran Policy"

Andreas Zumach remarked in leftist die tageszeitung of Berlin (6/8):

"It is relieving that the U.S. expressed its readiness to hold direct talks with Iran over the country's nuclear program after 29 years of silence. The new offer is in many respects an essential change of the Bush administration's policy. The massive problems at home and abroad as well as Russia and China's unyielding rejection to approve a UN resolution contributed to this change. Another problem of potential negotiations is that the U.S. has been rejecting giving Iran security guaranties.. When the talks finally start, the time might be ripe sometime to talk about security guaranties. The case of North Korea suggests that the negotiations can last for years."

C. (CIA) Renditions

1. Barbara Wesel commented on national radio station Deutschlandfunk of Cologne (6/7):

"The 'axis of clueless' reached from Madrid to Bucharest, from Malta to Warsaw, and from Rome to Berlin. The report of the Council of Europe differentiates between those who only looked away and those countries whose intelligence services more or less actively took part in the [CIA activities]. Germany allegedly belongs in the latter group, and most of the 1,000 non-reported flights allegedly happened here. It is not so easy not to have taken note of them. This requires a certain degree of resolve. Marty concedes that he does not have sound evidence, but that there is compelling evidence. This should be enough to draw political consequences from this investigation. At issue is the core of European values: the preservation of human rights. If we give them up because cooperation with the CIA should not be in jeopardy, or for other considerations, then we will give up ourselves. A number of European governments

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seem to have embarked upon the dangerous path, which the United States has traced out from Guantnamo via Abu Ghraib to Haditha.. There can only be one consequence from this report: the European governments must finally uncover everything, name the responsible people and put things right.. There is nothing worse in international politics than the loss of credibility."

2. Regional radio station Sdwestrundfunk of Stuttgart aired the following commentary by Martin Durm (6/7):

"Dick Marty said that we now know that there is not only Al Qaida but that there is another global network woven by the CIA.. It is part of the depressing facts that surround this affair, which is rich in speculation and rumors, since Dick Marty cannot present any sound evidence. Over the past few months, he only received the information from European governments and intelligence services wanted to give him. That is why Marty can only present circumstantial evidence.. Intelligence services react at best under state pressure, and moral authority like the one from the Council of Europe is foreign to them."

3. "No Evidence Against The CIA"

Hannelore Crolly judged in an editorial in right-of-center Die Welt of Berlin (6/8):

"The Council of Europe ventured forward without being able to supply facts. There is a mounting danger that chief investigator Dick Marty will have to defend himself when he is unable to support his allegations with concrete facts. The legitimate effort to fully investigate the alleged scandal over CIA can now be seriously damaged. Nevertheless, there are manifold indications that the investigators are on the right track.. That is why the investigation should go on at all levels.. We must assume that many states out of a false sense understanding of America's fight against terror allowed operations and actions on their territory, which were unthinkable before 9/11. But such compromises should not exist when it comes to the profound protection of human rights. It is dangerous when governments apply double standards, since it weakens the ability of the international community to tackle human rights violations."

4. "Blame Yourself, Too"

Business daily Financial Times Deutschland of Hamburg (6/8)

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had this to say:

"From a European point of view, the really outrageous thing of the report is that the CIA had a free hand - because the [European] governments gave it a carte blanche.

We will not commit any character assassination if we conclude from Marty's final report that Romania and Poland in particular were compliant supporters of U.S. activities. It is the greatest scandal from the report that both countries tolerated CIA prisons on their territory in which European legal standards were disregarded. But no one here is allowed to point fingers.. If the former Red-Green government had wanted to know what the CIA did on U.S. bases in Germany, it could have learned this. That is why it is also guilty, even though it boasted itself by rejecting the Guantanamo prison camp but now it has lost a further piece of its credibility. It closed its eyes to the things that happened at its front door..

"Germany should draw two conclusions from the Marty report: This includes the emergence of a will among the affected agencies to learn what the Americans do here, the extent that German intelligence services turning their passive tolerance of U.S. intelligence service activities into improved active cooperation.."

5. "Document Of Disgrace"

Center-right Nordwest-Zeitung of Oldenburg (6/8) observed:

"The CIA report of the Council of Europe conforms to almost all the bad assumptions: For a long time, the CIA flew across Europe with captured terror suspects aboard and no government protested. On the contrary, obviously, national agencies deliberately gave a helping hand for illegal transports that violated each human right. The report is a document of disgrace for each mentioned government. The suspicion suggests that German intelligence services require a profound examination with all consequences including its dissolution."

6. Centrist Klnr Stadt-Anzeiger (6/8) opined:

"Since November, we have heard rumors in the media that the CIA does not shy away from kidnappings and torture and from ignoring sovereignty rights of other countries. U.S. agencies have ignored all these accusations, as if it would be a way to eliminate them. The U.S. government is obviously not interested in investigating these reports.

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That is why the report of the Council of Europe on the - alleged - CIA practices is an important element to make future violations of the law at least more difficult. If the German government does not want to become an accomplice now, it must conclude an agreement with the United States which bans CIA flights over German air space."

D. (Iraq) U.S. Reputation

1. "America Will Have To Pay"

Matthias Nass argued in a front-page editorial in center-left, weekly Die Zeit of Hamburg (6/8):

"Iraq is going down in anarchy. And those who came as liberators and planned to terminate Saddam's despotic rule are forfeiting their moral credit with the Iraqis, the people at home and the world. Not only individual soldiers have 'lost control,' as we often heard, but, in the meantime, this time for the U.S. policy towards Iraq in general. The U.S. forces are now being accused of having committed three crimes in Haditha, Ichaki, and Hamandiya.. After Haditha, America's intervention in Iraq can hardly be won. Those who fail morally cannot win militarily..

"If George Bush wants to avoid turning from the one who takes action to the one who is driven by events, he must begin with the troop withdrawal this year. This pullout will take place in stages and over a lengthy period of time, but the signal must come now. The nuclear conflict with Iran already shows the extent to which Bush lost the capability to act. The ultras in Tehran around Holocaust denier Ahmadinejad are speculating that the Americans will not allow their president to embark upon a second adventure in the Middle East. They do not thank him for having freed them from their worst enemies: Saddam in Iraq and the Taliban in Afghanistan..

"Bush planned to bring the Islamic world freedom and democracy. But the American fighting machine, which can win every battle but can also lose a war, has now sped up Iran's rise to a regional power. What a miserable point. It is time to mourn for 2,476 GIs, the 4,751 killed Iraqi police officers and soldiers; and probably for the 40,000 civilians, and America's reputation."

E. (Africa) Somalia

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1. "The Great Helplessness"

Stefan Ehlert noted in left-of-center Berliner Zeitung (6/8):

"The moderate alliance of warlords with the misleading name of 'Alliance for the Restoration of Peace and Counterterrorism' was reportedly financed and armed with the help of the U.S., either directly or through middlemen. This reference to Western influence helped Islamists to become popular."

F. (Peru) Presidential Elections

1. "All Prayers Were In Vain"

Christian Schmidt-Hquer noted in an editorial in center-left, weekly Die Zeit f Hamburg (6/8):

"With his victory in the un-off elections, Alan Garca stole part of the nmbus that has surrounded the boaster from Caracas First, the social democrat took the wind out of the sails of left-wing nationalist Ollanta Humal by relying on the votes of Peru's upper middle lass. Second, Garca is likely to steal the show from loudmouth Chavez since Garca matches him as a demagogue and is superior to him as a bombastic speaker.. And third, the election winner took away Chavez's energy policy and hopes to form a joint Andes area against hegemonic U.S. interests. There will be no regional gas cartel Venezuela-Bolivia-Peru under Garca's leadership..

"Peru's new president will strive for correct but not uncritical relations with the United States, and in addition for a policy that is friendly to entrepreneurs and does not nationalize raw material.. The social democrats in the region can push back left-wing populism only if they lead the millions of downtrodden Indians and small farmers out of their misery. This is a poverty that cannot be defeated by economic growth and by neo-liberal slogans for less influence of the state, as long as the upper class in these countries siphons off all profits."

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